"You" cannot have an ego — You are the ego

The worst confusion for the spiritual seeker centres around just one factor. It is a fact of life that in the daily living of the human being, there are only three clearly distinct factors: (a) the source — the creator Reality, the Impersonal Consciousness, the Primal Energy, God or whatever label is given to the one Manifest Unicity; (b) the human object, as a distinct species of object in the totality of manifestation, but an object nonetheless, like any other object of a different species; c) the "ego", as the separate entity, living his life, each seeking what he may calls "happiness".

There is no problem as such in regard to the first two items: the labels may differ, but there is no confusion in the understanding of what the items represent. It is in the third item, the "Ego", that there exists the maximum of confusion for the spiritual seeker. The core of this confusion lies in the fact that the human being, the seeker of the spiritual goal, is told by almost all the spiritual teachers that his only problem is the "ego", that it is the ego that has to be controlled; indeed, the spiritual seeker has been told, in as many words, that he must "kill the ego". Here lies the real problem for the spiritual seeker: Where is this 'ego' that I am supposed to control, to kill?!

The fact of the matter is that the

spiritual seeker, the separate human entity is nothing other than the infamous ego! In other words, the human being, the spiritual seeker, cannot have any other ego, because he is the ego! This is the real problem which is not recognized and understood in depth, and, therefore, has created such enormous confusion.

The real question, therefore, is: What is the ego-seeker-human being seeking in life as that is known merely as 'enlightenment'? What is enlightenment supposed to give the spiritual seeker for the rest of his life that he did not have before? This is what spiritual seeking is all about, what is generally expected in this context is indeed the area where confusion becomes worse confounded, because this point has not been squarely confronted by the seeker.

What is generally expected as the result of enlightenment, in daily living, is something totally misconceived, such as 'freedom from pain', 'freedom from imperfections', freedom from 'kleshas', special powers (Siddhis), or some such impossible nonsense.

A deep study on this most significant subject will yield only one conclusion: what the spiritual seeker is truly seeking is, can only be termed 'happiness', but there has to be the clearest appreciation that true 'happiness' cannot lie in anything that the flow of life can bring — which can only be momentary, together with

its interrelated opposite: pleasure and pain. The final conclusion that the successful spiritual seeker comes to is that the true "happiness" he is seeking can only lie in his attitude towards life! — and not in what the flow of life can bring. And, this happiness is nothing more than peace of mind.

The attitude towards life is solely based on the duality of the subject/object relationship: 'me' and the 'other'. This relationship is usually based on what the 'me' and the "other" do to each other. In other words, this relationship, according to everyone's experience, is based on a deeply-conditioned rivalry: the result has always been a tremendous weight of hatred for oneself and hatred for the other, based on this rivalry and to each doing harm to the other. We harm done to each other. It is this weight of hatred which prevents the peace of mind from happening.

It is quite clear that unless there is a deep realization of the basic unicity — non-duality — behind the apparent duality of the subject/object relationship between the me and the other, the peace of mind for the human being is impossible. This realization is based on the fact that neither the me nor the other can do any harm to anyone because the human being is in fact nothing more than an instrument through which "life" happens according to God's Will or Cosmic Law; and, more importantly, there is the fact that every single ego-seeker is, in essence, the Impersonal Consciousness itself, identified with each body-

mind organizes as an individual thinker-doer-experiencer. This creation of the human ego is the basis of interhuman relationships which in turn is the basis of the functioning of manifestation that we call "life".

"Enlightenment" can only be the final apperception that everything that is manifest can only in essence be the One Unmanifest, and that everything in the world is a "happening" according to a Cosmic Law, and not the doing of any individual, autonomous entity.